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12 JANUARY 1960

DIRECTOR'S FILMS

ON

REQUEST FOR USAF ASSISTANCE IN  
OPERATION OF TSEC GCA BY FRENCH (U)  
CSAFM 13-60

Item No. 6, Operations Deputies Meeting, Tuesday, 12 January 1960

1. The basic issues underlying the proposals contained in CSAFM 13-60 are whether the Joint Chiefs of Staff have adequately recognized the implications with respect to the over-all problem of air access to Berlin and whether the proposed message to USCINCEUR ignores the responsibility of the Joint Chiefs of Staff to recommend a policy with respect to the French request.

2. The reasons why the position in CSAFM 13-60 should not be supported are:

a. The proposed method of transmitting instructions to USCINCEUR relative to the employment of military equipment and personnel directly related to his war readiness potential through the Secretary of Defense with Department of State concurrence is not in accordance with existing directives. The effect of this would be to erode the responsibilities of the Joint Chiefs of Staff to a unified commander. Implementing instructions should be forwarded to USCINCEUR directly from the Joint Chiefs of Staff as originally proposed in J.C.S. 2290/13.

b. The point contained in CSAFM 13-60, subparagraph 3d, of the proposed memorandum to the Secretary of Defense is a separate political issue, subject to tripartite discussion, does not directly concern USCINCEUR and is so restrictive as to be unacceptable to the French and thus tantamount to U.S. refusal to furnish the equipment and services requested. Adequate protection of U.S. interests relative to the use of GCA equipment and services and

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in the matter of air access to Berlin is provided in a draft State-Defense message which contains the following language: "... the position of the U.S. should be re-emphasized and French commitment should be obtained that jet operations below 10,000 feet in Berlin corridors will not be undertaken by Air France without full prior tripartite consultation at Bonn...." Informal information from the Office, Secretary of Defense (ISA) indicates that with or without approval of the Joint Chiefs of Staff the above provision would be forwarded to the U.S. Ambassador at Bonn. The Joint Chiefs of Staff have previously advised the Secretary of Defense of the desire of the French to inaugurate jet propelled Caravelle air service to Berlin and the effect of such operations below 10,000 feet on the U.S. position. In view of the above, it is recommended that the original message of the Joint Chiefs of Staff proposed by the J-3 be forwarded without change. In the event the Joint Chiefs of Staff cannot otherwise reach agreement, it is recommended that the following be added to the message of the Joint Chiefs of Staff proposed in J.C.S. 2290/13.

"1g. Jet operations below 10,000 feet in the Berlin corridors will not be undertaken by Air France without full prior tripartite consultation at Bonn."